

# South Texas Researcher

February 2014

Welcome to the new South Texas Researcher.

Note: the South Texas Researcher is also now available at <http://www.mysapl.org/texana.aspx> on the San Antonio Public Library's web site. Back files will soon be added.

This newsletter is produced to keep librarians, historians, archivists, genealogists, archæologists, and those in other allied fields informed of what is going on that may be helpful in these fields so they may pass this information on to other interested parties in their locations.

South Texas is being broadly defined as beginning in Val Verde County in the west; moving east to Austin (Travis County); and then southeast through Caldwell, Lavaca, Jackson, and Calhoun counties to the Gulf of Mexico.

We are willing to include important events or acquisitions from other areas, in some instances, if they may be of particular usefulness to those in our area. News from our neighboring Mexican states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Coahuila would also be welcome.

If you have items you or your organization would like others to know about, please e-mail us at [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov).

Please share this newsletter with others.



## Texana/Genealogy Classes

The following classes are held at the Central Library Auditorium.  
600 Soledad Street

One hour free parking is available with a validated ticket.  
E-mail: [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov)

Tuesday, February 11, 2014  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

## **Traditional Classes in Texana Room**

### **Preserving Family Treasures**

Learn how to protect all types of family heirlooms in the easiest and best ways possible.

Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

### **Hispanic Genealogy: An Introduction**

Learn the basic research techniques and strategies for uncovering your Hispanic genealogy. How to begin, where to go, and what you can expect to find along the way will be discussed.

Tuesday, February 4, 2014  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

### **Computer Classes at Central: Ancestry, Library Ed.**

One of the most popular genealogy databases available today, Ancestry (LE) is made available - for FREE - at all SAPL libraries. This class will look at how the site is organized and effective search techniques. It will be compared with HeritageQuest Online and Fold3.com for content and ease of searching. How to print records will also be discussed. Join us in learning how to find your ancestors using this powerful database.

This class will be in the new Connect Training area on the first floor.

Tuesday, March 4, 2014  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

### **Heritage Quest Online**

See how you can access U.S. Census records, family & county histories, genealogy magazine indexes, Revolutionary War pension records and more, both at the library and at home!

This class will be in the new Connect Training area on the first floor.

## **Igo Library**

13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy.  
210-207-9080

For information about classes at Igo Library contact:  
Michelle Ricondo at [Michelle.Ricondo@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Michelle.Ricondo@sanantonio.gov)

Tuesday, February 18, 2014  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

## **Familysearch.org**

This is a database of actual, digitized records begun and maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. It contains millions of records for the United States and also includes information from other countries, especially Mexico. This class will introduce you to this FREE, Internet genealogy database and show how best to utilize all that it has to offer.

Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

## **Find A Grave**

Find the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials, add 'virtual flowers' and a note to a loved one's grave, etc.

## **News and Calendar of Events**



**SOUTHWEST  
VAQUEROS**

Southwest Vaqueros is a Corral Chapter of [Westerners International](#).

Southwest Vaqueros was founded by Al Lowman and his friends when he was a researcher and writer for the Institute of Texan Cultures. Among his friends were John Woodhull and Charlie Schreiner III. His personal library and collection are now housed in the Cushing Library at the TAMU campus.

For the present we meet at 6:30 PM at Papa Dante's on the third Tuesday of every other month since March and May. No dues are due for now, so the only cost is transportation and your wonderful meal. Tolerance of the elderly is appreciated at this time until we can chase up some younger mavericks... If you don't have a computer, call our irksome Sheriff (president) and Scribe (Secretary) at 210-418-4087 and it is reported that he checks his voicemail. His e-mail address is jltolleson@sbcglobal.net.



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## **Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society**

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. every first Saturday of the month on the first floor, Main Auditorium, of the San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad Street, San Antonio, Texas. Visitors are always welcome to attend. Membership is not required. Speakers at the meetings are people with a passion for history, professional historians, genealogists, archaeologists and researchers.

### **February 2014 Meeting**

Date: February 1, 2014

Speaker: George Nelson

Topic: The Model of the Alamo

George S. Nelson is a painter, sculptor, illustrator, archaeologist, writer, historian, and a historical consultant whose main subject matter is Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and combines his thirty years of experience with his skills as an artist to create murals, dioramas, reliefs, and sculptures, recreating and interpreting historic and archaeological sites throughout Texas. Recognized as a specialist in museum exhibits in the state of Texas, his work is included in the collections of the Alamo, the City of San Antonio, the National Park Service, the Institute of Texan Cultures, the Texas Memorial Museum, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Witte Museum. His extensive research over three decades resulted in the award-winning book, *The Alamo-An Illustrated History*, which he authored, illustrated, and published. His expertise on the Alamo allows Mr. Nelson to continue to update the publication. The book is currently in its third printing and the second edition contains new information, maps, and photos. Mr. Nelson's book is the most frequently recommended book on the Alamo by the San Antonio Public Library. Dr. Mary Black of the University of Texas at Austin finds the book useful to both teachers and students of Texas history. In 1998, the National Park Service commissioned Mr. Nelson to create a bronze relief map of Mission San Jose, which appears at the entrance to the Mission grounds. In 1986, the City of San Antonio commissioned other projects. Mr. Nelson created a relief map of San Antonio de Bejar, showing the layout of the town, the Alamo, and surrounding terrain. The map was commissioned by the Witte Museum and is exhibited at the IMAX Theater. In 1997, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas requested the use of Mr. Nelson's paintings of the evolution of the Alamo and placed the works on the interpretive Wall of History at the Alamo. Thirty archaeological excavations in Texas, Colorado, Oregon, Alaska and Utah benefited from Mr. Nelson's expertise as an archaeologist and artist. Mr. Nelson is a native Texan. He lives and works on the Nelson Ranch in the Dry Frio Canyon of the

Texas Hill Country where four generations of his family lived and ranched. Cranbook art museum said that George Nelson is considered one of the most influential figures in American design during the second half of the twentieth century.

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## **Help for the beginning genealogist**

In November, 2009, the Society rented a building on the campus of Holy Rosary Parish to house our Library. The Parish is located at 159 Camino Santa Maria just north of Culebra Rd. The Library is manned by volunteers on Saturdays, except the 1st Saturday of the month. The hours are 10:00am to 2:00pm. There is no charge to use the Library and one need not be a member of the Society.

The Society assists individuals in getting started with genealogical research through beginner's workshops. Beginners also receive assistance from the more experienced members of the Society.

Contact one of the following individuals by email or phone to schedule an appointment:

Dennis Moreno  
210-647-5607  
[dennis.moreno@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dennis.moreno@sbcglobal.net)

Yolanda Patino  
210-434-3530  
[patinogil@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patinogil@sbcglobal.net)



**Museum News**

**Witte Museum**  
3801 Broadway  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
(210) 357-1900

The World Through Magic Lanterns  
June 29, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Threads of South America: 2,000 Years of Textiles  
October 13, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Alien Worlds and Androids  
February 22 - May 27, 2014

San Antonio Museum of Art  
200 West Jones Ave.  
San Antonio, Texas 78215  
(210) 978-8100

Fray Antonio Margil de Jesús: "Patron Saint of Texas"  
October 12, 2013 - March 23, 2014

TX★13: Spotlight on Texas Artists  
in the Contemporary Collection  
September 5, 2013 - November 9, 2014

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## **Library Guides from Texana/Genealogy**

The Texana/Genealogy department now has a presence on the San Antonio Public Library's website, [www.mysapl.org](http://www.mysapl.org). Go to the website, click on "Services," and scroll down to Texana/Genealogy. There you will find our blog, back issues of the South Texas Researcher (directly at [www.mysapl.org/texana.aspx](http://www.mysapl.org/texana.aspx)), our upcoming classes, and some of our "guides."

The Library Guides are subject bibliographies with a current twist-databases, websites, event schedule, blogs, as well as books. The department now has the following guides on the library's website under "Resources."

- Cemeteries
- Civil War
- Civil War in Texas
- Death
- Family History
- La Meri
- World War I (New)
- Hispanic Genealogical Research
- Jewish Genealogy
- King James Bible
- Local History

Special Collections  
Texas History  
The Wild West

## **San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society**

In addition to Beginner and Intermediate Genealogy classes, The San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society is offering its Sunday afternoon "How to Find Out Who You Are" classes. Classes are \$5.00 for members, \$10 for non-members Call 210.342.5242 for reservations or email to [saghs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saghs@sbcglobal.net). Classes are held in the library annex, behind the library.

With over 16,500 volumes, 600 + maps, a large vertical file collection and internet access to several great databases, the SAG&HS Library is one of the best private repositories of genealogical and historical material in South Texas.

The Library is located @ 911 Melissa Drive, off Blanco Rd., outside loop 410 and is open Monday 10-4, Wed. 10 am-9:00 pm, Sat. 10-4, Sunday 1-5. Members research free. Non-members may research for a \$5.00 donation per day. Tours of the library are free. For more information, visit [www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txsaghs2)

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## **Cadena Hispanic Genealogical Collection Now Available for Research in Texana/Genealogy**

Historian, genealogist, researcher Gloria Lillia Villa Cadena conducted primary Hispanic research from original records. The field work required that she meet with the challenges of traveling to research in Mexico and throughout Texas and having to decipher the archival Spanish language and handwriting. She did this with a passion to fulfill the much needed job of recording Hispanic family genealogy and history and share it with fellow researchers. The research was conducted over a period of many years. Cadena was a prominent founding member of Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society, which began with her inception in 1980, promoting ancestral research and Hispanic history. Along the way, other researchers donated their records to her, and now they are part of this collection. Preserving the genealogical information reflecting the Hispanic culture was an obsession met with a delightful zeal leaving a legacy and inspiring others to conduct research on their family heritage.

The Cadena Hispanic Genealogical Collection of books and research files were donated by her children to the Texana/Genealogy Department of the San Antonio Public Library after she passed in 2007.

The files consist of 49.5 cubic feet and 1,512 file folders, two file cabinets for Bexar County and two for Mexico. The collection spans from the late 1500's to the early 1900's. The much needed information reflects culture and population in Bexar County, surrounding communities, and several Mexican states. The majority of the collection covers Bexar County and Coahuila, Mexico. Other Mexican States include: Chihuahua, Durango, Nuevo León, Revilla/Guerrero, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas.

The records are arranged by sixteen series; subject and description in alphabetical subject files divided by county and country then cabinet, drawer and file number.

Included are cemeteries, census records, church records, (sub-series: baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths; court records, (deeds, probates, testimonies, and wills; family group sheets and records; Hispanic (history and genealogy) land and land grants, military information, photocopies of maps and newsletters, organizational information, pedigrees, personal correspondences, publications, vital records, and an inclusive miscellaneous category.

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## DO YOU HAVE A CONFEDERATE ANCESTOR?

The period 2010-2015 is being observed as the Sesquicentennial of the War Between the States.



Now is the time to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans and honor your ancestor and his heritage.

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## The San Antonio Civil War Roundtable

The San Antonio Civil War Roundtable (SACWRT) is a non-profit group that promotes the study of the American "Civil War." The Sesquicentennial of the War is being observed from 2010 to 2015. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month to discuss topics about the War. We meet at Grady's BBQ, 6510 San Pedro Avenue at the intersection with Jackson-Keller Road. The group gathers at 6 PM to eat and visit, with the speaker and discussion at 7:00 P.M.

We are seeking to grow the group by recruiting new members and speakers. Please visit one of the meetings to see if this group might be of interest to you. For further information contact Richard Brewer at 210-490-8827 or by email [rbrewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbrewer@sbcglobal.net).

We look forward to having you attend our meetings and become an active member.

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## The Alamo City Guards Camp #1325 Meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6pm at Grady's Barbecue, 6510 San Pedro

Visitors are always welcome. Come see if this may be an organization that interests you. Contact Commander Russ Lane, [alamocamp@yahoo.com](mailto:alamocamp@yahoo.com), 210-491-0676 for additional information and eligibility requirements or visit [www.alamocityguards.com](http://www.alamocityguards.com)

## Websites

### **Online, Animated Version of the Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States**

Charles O. Paullin published his monumental Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States in 1932. It contains nearly 700 maps covering seemingly every facet of the country's social, economic and political life, including maps, then novel, showing county-by-county results for presidential elections going back to the beginning of the Republic.

Now, modern bells and whistles have also come to Paullin's atlas. A souped-up online version has just been released by the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab, bringing what some historians still consider a work of unsurpassed scope into the age of the iPad.

## About Us

Texana / Genealogy  
San Antonio Public Library  
600 Soledad Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205  
210.207.2500

Please submit information and articles to [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov).

For: March 2014, by February 15

April 2014, by March 15

May 2014, by April 15